DOCKET NO.: VTN-0577 Application No.: 10/074,132

Office Action Dated: July 14, 2003

Amendments to the Specification:

Please insert the following section before "The Field of the Invention" on page 1:

Cross-Reference to Related Applications

This is a continuation of application Ser. No. 09/476,273, filed on Jan. 3, 2000, now U.S. Pat. No. 6,368,522.

Please replace paragraph [0002] with the following paragraph:

[0002] One way to manufacture soft contact lenses is to mold contact lenses in plastic molds. Typically there are two mold portions which when assembled form a cavity between the mold portions. A reactive mixture which reacts within the cavity forms a contact lens. Typically a first mold portion is dosed with the reactive mixture, and the second mold portion is placed on the first mold portion, and then the reactive mixture is reacted. The placement of the second mold portion onto the first mold portion typically causes excess reactive mixture to overflow the cavity contacting one or both mold portions. The mold portions commonly have flat flanges, and the excess reactive mixture commonly spreads out between the flanges of the two mold portions. The reaction of the reactive mixture is commonly radiation activated. The reactive mixture in the cavity reacts e.g. polymerizes and/or crosslinks to form the contact lens and the overflow reacts, to form an annular ring of polymer. In the typical manufacturing process the overflow area on the first mold portion (located on the bottom), which is the surface area of the first mold portion which the overflow reactive mixture will contact, receives an application of a surfactant prior to the dosing step. The surfactant prevents the overflow material from adhering to the first mold portion, and thereby helps the overflow material to adhere to the second mold portion and be removed from the manufacturing process when the second mold portion is removed from the first mold portion, referred to as the de-mold step. The second mold portion is then discarded. The contact lens stays in the first mold portion which continues in the contact lens manufacturing process to the hydration and washing step or steps. The hydration and washing step or steps have been disclosed in the prior art, including U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,640,980; 5,690,866 and U.S. Ser. No. 09/252307, filed on Feb. 18, 1999, now U.S. Pat. No. 6,207,086 (VTN-420), incorporated herein by reference.